



Senate Bill 893

Public Safety - Safer Communities Fund and Task Force - Establishment

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judicial Proceedings and Budget and
Taxation Committees

Date: March 15, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber and Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 893. This bill would establish a fund available to local governments in support of programs preventing a police response to low-level crimes and noncriminal incidences.

Many counties have already begun studying and implementing alternatives to law enforcement to address crime. Several of the initiatives supported by SB 893 are already underway in our counties, including the deployment of behavioral health crisis response units and the construction of lighting infrastructure and safer public passages. This bill would have the added effect of potentially reducing the burden placed on stretched county law enforcement.

Altogether, as the State and its counties shift toward alternative responses to crime, SB 893 would bolster current and future efforts to protect Marylanders. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 893 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.